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Amdt. dated December 23, 2008  
Reply to Office Action of November 26, 2008

DEC 23 2008

36. (currently amended) The article of claim 5 wherein said substrate contains discrete elastic elastic regions separated by inelastic regions.

37. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener is stretchable.

38. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener comprises elastic regions.

39. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein an attachment surface of said fastener is elastic, inelastic, or combination thereof.

40. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener is adapted for fastening said article to itself.

41. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener is adapted for fastening said article to another object.

42. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener is adapted for joining two or more components of said article.

43. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener comprises part of a side seam of said article.

44. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener comprises a three-dimensional topography characterized by a series of peaks and valleys.

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45. (currently amended) The article of claim 44 wherein said peaks and valleys alternate in a first direction.

46. (previously presented) The article of claim 44 wherein groups of hairs are selectively disposed on said peaks of said substrate, said valleys of said substrate, or combination thereof.

47. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said hairs are protected from contamination with other materials until pressed into contact with an opposing surface.

48. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said hairs are protected with a removable cover.

49. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said fastener comprises substantially hair free regions between groups of hair.

50. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said hairs are disposed substantially uniformly along the fastener.

51. (original) The article of claim 5 wherein said hairs are disposed substantially randomly along the fastener.

52. (withdrawn) A disposable absorbent article comprising at least one gecko-like fastener including a thin, flexible base layer onto which has been disposed spaced apart, discrete patches comprising a substrate supporting adhesive hairs rising from said substrate, said adhesive hairs each having a height of about 0.5 microns to about 8 millimeters, and a diameter greater than about 0.05 microns, and substantially adhesive hair-free regions of said base layer separating said patches.

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53. (withdrawn) The article of claim 52 wherein said patches are spaced apart in a first direction of said base layer.

54. (withdrawn) The article of claim 53 wherein said first direction is in the machine direction.

55. (withdrawn) The article of claim 53 wherein said first direction is in the direction in which the base layer is most extensible.

56. (withdrawn) The article of claim 52 wherein said substrate is elastomeric.

57. (withdrawn) The article of claim 52 wherein said substrate is creped.

58. (withdrawn) The article of claim 52 wherein said substrate is foreshortened material that can be stretched in one or more directions.

59. (withdrawn) The article of claim 52 wherein said patches are thin films.

60. (withdrawn) The article of claim 59 wherein said film has a thickness of less than 50 microns.

61. (withdrawn) The article of claim 59 wherein said film has a thickness of about 0.05 millimeters to about 3 millimeters.

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62. (withdrawn) The article of claim 52 wherein said patches have a Young's modulus greater than that of said base layer.

63. (withdrawn) A method of fastening a disposable absorbent article comprises attaching a gecko-like fastener to an opposing surface, wherein said fastener includes a substrate, a plurality of adhesive hairs rising from said substrate, said adhesive hairs having a height of about 0.5 microns to about 8 millimeters and a diameter greater than about 0.05 microns.

64. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63 wherein said opposing surface is hydrophilic, hydrophobic, or combination thereof.

65. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63 wherein said opposing surface comprises a synthetic material, natural material, or combination thereof.

66. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63 wherein said opposing surface comprises composite materials.

67. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63 wherein said opposing surface has a porosity less than ten-percent.

68. (withdrawn) The method of claim 63 wherein said opposing surface is a laminate.

69. (canceled)